

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 13, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

Good news: the parks committee backed off of a \$120 million/1% sales tax increase on Tuesday.

Warning: the resolution in support of the \$120 million/1% sales tax increase was also before the county board's Transportation committee on Wednesday, Judiciary committee on Thursday, and will be before the Finance committee next Thursday.

Apparently they are attempting the shotgun approach with 4 different committees. That means that concerned taxpayers need to keep watch.

Some want us to believe that the county board will actually use the money they get from the sales tax increase to lower property taxes. That was the same point made in 1991 when the county board passed a .5% sales tax increase.

From 1992 to 2002, property taxes in Milwaukee County went up 55%. That does not sound like cutting property taxes to me. On top of that, the author even notes that only \$60 million would go to "property tax relief" with the rest going to more spending.

So, even if you believe the county board's math, it still adds up to a \$60 million net tax increase. If you don't buy their math (and history would prove you right), it comes to a \$120 million tax increase.

At a time when we are trying to bring more jobs to the region, a \$120 million tax increase would be a job killer. I want to live in a place where people want to create jobs and that is why I will veto a \$120 million tax increase.

Scott



Walker Announces Appointment of Chief of Staff

County Executive Walker announced the appointment of Tom Nardelli as his Chief of Staff. Mr. Nardelli is a former Milwaukee Alderman, serving his northwest side district for over 17 years until retiring in 2004. Since that time he has run a consulting business.

"Tom has a wealth of experience that makes him a perfect addition to our team," said Walker. "His government experience, particularly as Chairman of the Common Council's Finance & Personnel Committee, will enable him to hit the ground running as we head into budget deliberations."

In accepting the position, Nardelli said, "I am honored to have been asked to join the Walker Administration and continue my career of public service. Scott Walker has lead Milwaukee County well and been a tremendous advocate for the taxpayers. I look forward to working with him and his team."

Mr. Nardelli will start his new role August 27. He replaces Jim Villa, who left the post in June for a position in the private sector.

West Allis Senior Center



Walker joins members of the West Allis Senior Center for lunch and discussion on county issues

South Shore Park Events



County Executive Walker and Sup. Marina Dimitrijevic joined Gus Gnorski on Fox6 TV to promote this weekend's 58th South Shore Frolic. The beautiful setting at South Shore Park will attract thousands for the events Friday, July 13 (4-10:30pm), Saturday, July 14 (11am – 10:30pm) kicked off with a parade, and Sunday, July 15 (11am – 10pm) featuring nightly fireworks, live music, food vendors and a Sunday afternoon arts festival and classic car show.

Support the Parks



County Executive Walker and US Bank Vice President of Retail Banking, Melissa Foerster, joined Gus Gnorski of Fox6 TV to highlight the raffle of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle to benefit the parks. The \$5 tickets are available at all 15 county park golf courses, all US Bank locations in the county, and other locations noted on the parks website at www.countyparks.com.

Dogs Allowed On-Leash



County Executive Walker thanked Anne and John Nehring of G. Groppi's Food Market for their generous donation of dog waste stations along the trail at South Shore Park. Dogs are allowed on-leash except in the tot playground area. (Pictured above: a dog waste station, and Gigi and Maurice - French Bulldogs belonging to the Nehrings).

40th US Bank Golf Championship

County Executive Walker congratulated the Parks Department staff for doing an outstanding job on preparing the course for the world-class golfers competing in the US Bank Championship Thursday, July 19 to Sunday, July 22 at Brown Deer Park Golf Course. PGA Tour practice rounds will take place Monday, July 16 and Tuesday, July 17. Information on tickets and business packages is available by calling (414)431-4653 or by visiting www.usbankchampionship.com